

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00499 251458Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05
ERDA-07 CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01
INT-05 OMB-01 OES-06 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NEA-10
/127 W

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R 251415Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4588
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 499

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : PFOR, HO, GT, ECIN, EGEN

SUBJECT : LAUGERUD CALLS FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY

1. SUMMARY: HONDURAN PRESIDENT MELGAR DECORATED PRESIDENT LAUGERUD IN APPRECIATION FOR GUATEMALA'S ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS DURING RECENT FLOODING THERE. LAUGERUD CALLED FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TOWARD CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY AND IN PARTICULAR NORMALIZATION OF HONDURAN-SALVADOREAN RELATIONS TO ALLOW UNIFIED CENTRAL AMERICA TO MEET CHALLENGE OF WORLD COMPETITION. END SUMMARY.

2. HONDURAN PRESIDENT GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO AND MRS. MELGAR, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER PALMA AND OTHER HONDURAN OFFICIALS, ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA JANUARY 24 ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT. PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO AWARD PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA FRANCISCO MORAZAN DECORATIONS AS EXPRESSIONS OF HONDURAN GRATITUDE FOR GUATEMALAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS DURING RECENT FLOODING THERE.

3. ON RECEIVING AWARD AND IN REPLY TO MELGAR'S APOLITICAL REMARKS LAUGERUD SAID, "AN HOUR LOST TODAY

IN THE UNIFICATION EFFORT INCREASES THE DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES CENTRAL AMERICA FROM ITS GREATNESS--THE HISTORIC, TRADITIONAL AND NECESSARY GOAL OF ONE TERRITORY, ONE GOVERNMENT, ONE POSITION BEFORE THE WORLD AND GREATER HUMAN PROGRESS THAN WE CAN ACHIEVE SEPARATELY PERMIT ME THEN TO PROPOSE AT THIS TIME THAT WE RENEW OUR COMMITMENT THAT EACH PEOPLE AND EACH GOVERNMENT DO ALL IT CAN TOWARD THE REESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND SALVADOR. GUATEMALA KNOWS THAT THERE ARE STILL PENDING SOME DIFFICULT QUESTIONS BEFORE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THESE RELATIONS. BUT IT ALSO KNOWS THAT THE PEOPLE OF SALVADOR AND HONDURAS WANT, NEED AND ARE CALLED UPON TO NORMALIZE THE FORMAL ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONS.

4. "IN THE LARGER PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD WE SEE THAT SMALL COUNTRIES WILL BE WEAKER AND MORE VULNERABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNLESS WE UNITE AND INTEGRATE. THE GROWING COSTS OF ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY, THE BURDENS WHICH THE MORE ADVANCED NATIONS PLACE ON THE LESS DEVELOPED AND THE DISORDER IN THE WORLD ECONOMY BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE COUNTRIES WITH GREATER POWER OF DECISION PUT US IN DISADVANTAGE AND DEPENDENCY."

5. COMMENT: WHILE GUATEMALA HAS PLAYED A MODERATELY ACTIVIST BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE IN TRYING TO PROMOTE NORMALIZATION OF HONDURAN-SALVADORAN RELATIONS, THIS IS FIRST TIME WE RECALL THAT LAUGERUD HAS PUBLICLY CALLED ON THE TWO COUNTRIES TO END THEIR DISPUTE. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS REMARKS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, LAUGERUD SEEMS TO BE CRITICIZING BOTH THE OPEC COUNTRIES FOR THE DISORDER THE HIGH COSTS OF ENERGY HAVE IMPOSED ON THE DEVELOPING WORLD, AND THE WEST FOR THE HIGH COST OF TECHNOLOGY. BOSTER

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